



U.S. Department of Justice

Southern District of Indiana

United States Attorney

10 West Market Street

(317) 226-6333

*Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

TDD (317) 226-5438

September 15, 2006

*FAX NUMBERS:
Criminal (317) 226-6125
Administration (317) 226-5176
Civil (317) 226-5027
FLU (317) 226-6133
OCDETF (317) 226-5953*

CONTACT PERSON:

SUSAN W. BROOKS
United States Attorney
(317) 226-6333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CHICAGO LEADER OF COCAINE
CONSPIRACY SENTENCED TO LIFE**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that VISHNU BENDER, 32, of Chicago, Illinois was sentenced to life imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his conviction as the leader of a Chicago to Evansville cocaine and cocaine base distribution conspiracy. BENDER was convicted after a jury trial in April, 2006. The case was the result of a joint federal, state and local investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Evansville Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department and the Indiana State Police, into the drug distribution activities of a network of individuals operating in Southwestern Indiana,

responsible for the trafficking of large quantities of narcotics from Chicago to the Tri-State area.

According to Assistant United States Matthew P. Brookman, who prosecuted the case for the government, BENDER will serve the life sentence imposed by Judge Young in a Federal Bureau of Prisons facility.

###

20060915.Bender.dt.wpd